

# **Travel Information for Joint CERES-GERB Science Team Meeting 27–30 October 2008**

Goddard Institute for Space Studies  
New York City, New York



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## **Travel Information**

### **Venue**

The NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies is located in the Morningside Heights-Columbia University neighborhood of New York City, at the corner of West 112th St. and Broadway. The building, officially Columbia University's Armstrong Hall, is shown below.



If you watched the TV program *Seinfeld*, you may recognize our corner from the exterior shots of the diner where Jerry and friends hang out. The restaurant is Tom's Restaurant, and GISS occupies five of the building's seven floors. Four blocks up Broadway is the main entrance to the Columbia University campus, while a block east on 112th St. is the West Front of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.



## Transportation: Reaching Manhattan

### Airports

LaGuardia (LGA), Kennedy (JFK), and Newark-Liberty (EWR) airports serve the New York metropolitan area. The [Port Authority of New York and New Jersey](#) has detailed pages on its website which explain ground transport options between the airports and Manhattan.

GISS is a component laboratory of Goddard Space Flight Center's Earth Sciences Division, which is part of GSFC's Sciences and Exploration Directorate. The institute was originally established in May, 1961 by Dr. Robert Jastrow to do basic research in space sciences in support of Goddard programs. Much of the institute's early work involved study of planetary atmospheres using data collected by telescopes and space probes, and in time that led to GISS becoming a leading center of atmospheric modeling and of climate change. Learn more at <http://www.giss.nasa.gov/about/>.

*JFK AirTrain and Subway:* At JFK, the new [AirTrain](#) monorail circulates around the various terminals and then leads off to the Howard Beach stop of the subway A train, to the Sutphin Blvd. stop of the subway E train, and to the Long-Island Rail Road's Jamaica station. The AirTrain costs \$5, and then you have to pay the subway (\$2) or train fare (up to \$10) to get to Manhattan. Depending on whether you connect with the A or the E, the AirTrain plus subway combo takes 50–80 minutes to get from the airport to Midtown Manhattan. The A is more convenient in traveling straight to GISS from the airport, as it will take you to Columbus Circle, but is much slower than the E.

*LaGuardia MTA Bus:* The only mass transit option to LaGuardia is the M60 route (Manhattan route #60) on the [MTA bus system](#). It travels back and forth between the airport terminals and the GISS–Morningside Heights neighborhood, including stops on Broadway at 116th St. and at 110th St. It makes stops in Astoria, Queens, and in Harlem along the way and takes 45 to 80 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. (The bus is popular with LGA employees so it can be very crowded.) Cost is \$2 and must be paid using a Metrocard or in exact change.

*Newark-Liberty AirTrain:* Newark also has an [AirTrain](#) service which circulates around the terminals and connects with the Newark Liberty International Airport Train Station. From the airport train station, you can take an [New Jersey Transit](#) or [Amtrak](#) train into Penn Station in Midtown Manhattan. The AirTrain is free. NJT fare from the airport station into Manhattan is \$15, which is much less than Amtrak charges.

*Airport Buses:* Options include the [Airport Service](#) Express buses, which connect JFK and LaGuardia to three locations in Manhattan: Grand Central Station (125 Park Ave. at 42nd St.), Penn Station (Seventh Ave. at 34th St.), and the Port Authority Bus Terminal (Eighth Ave. at 42nd St.). Similarly, the [Olympia Airport Express](#) connects Newark-Liberty Airport to those three Manhattan locations. One-way bus fare for LaGuardia is about \$12, JFK \$15, and Newark \$11.

Gray Line also operates minibuses which circulate between some Midtown hotels and the airports, costing about \$17. If you are staying at a Midtown hotel, inquire at the concierge desk about the bus.

*Taxi:* Cabs operate to and from between Manhattan and JFK or LaGuardia. However, NYC taxis may only deliver you *to* Newark. When cabbing in from one of the airports, be sure to get a cab from the *taxi stand* outside the baggage claim area so that you will be charged the city-specified rate. Avoid the gypsy cab drivers who might be hanging about

the baggage claim areas as they may attempt to charge you a fare 25%–100% more than a regular cabbie. Cab fare from the airport should be around \$25 from LaGuardia, \$45 from JFK, and \$40 from Newark. Add to this about \$5 for bridge/tunnel tolls plus a tip (at least 15% of the fare). Although this is expensive, it can be convenient if you have several people travelling together.

## **Railroad**

New York City is located on [Amtrak](#)'s Northeast Corridor. Trains stop at [Pennsylvania Station](#) in Midtown at Seventh Ave. and 32nd St. Travellers to New York from Boston, Philadelphia or Washington, D.C., may find that the Amtrak is more convenient and less expensive than air travel.

Commuter rail service is provided by the [Metro-North Railroad](#), the [Long Island Rail Road](#), and [New Jersey Transit](#). Metro-North connects the city to communities further up the Hudson River and in Connecticut, and terminates at Grand Central Station, at Park Ave. and 42nd St. in midtown Manhattan. Serving towns out on Long Island, the LIRR stops at Penn Station. NJT connects to various town in New Jersey and also operates out of Penn Station/

## **Transportation: Travel within Manhattan**

### **Taxi**

Once inside Manhattan, you'll find that yellow taxi cabs are ubiquitous. To hail one, just step to a clear space along the curb, look for a cab with a lit dome light, and raise an arm above your head. If a non-yellow "gypsy" cab tries to pick you up, reject it as they are not legally allowed to pick up "hails" on the street.

Depending on whether you start from the east or west side and upon the time of day (Midtown around 5:00 p.m. on a weekday occasionally reaches gridlock), a cab from Midtown to GISS will cost about \$10–\$15.

When giving a cab driver your destination, you will minimize confusion if you specify an intersection. In other words, one would state "corner of 112th and Broadway" rather than "2880 Broadway" in order to get to GISS.

### **Subway**

GISS is located along the "IRT", the [1 train](#) of the [MTA subway system](#). The closest station on the line is the "Cathedral Parkway" stop at the corner of Broadway and 110th St., just two short blocks south of GISS. Also nearby is the "Columbia University" station at Broadway and 116th St. Upon exiting the station, just walk north or south on Broadway as appropriate until you reach 112th St.

As of July 2008, one subway fare is officially \$2. Individual tokens are no longer sold and you should instead purchase an electronic Metro Card at any subway station. Cards may be purchased on a pay-per-ride basis or for unlimited use during a set timespan.

If you arrive in Midtown Manhattan by train or airport bus and wish to take a subway directly to GISS, you would:

***From Grand Central Station:***

Take the 7 train across town to Times Square and change to the 1, 2, or 3 uptown. If you take the 2 or 3, you *must* then transfer to the 1 train at either 72nd or 96th St.

***From Penn Station:***

From the *east* end of the station, take the 1, 2, or 3 train. Again, if you take the 2 or 3 you *must* then switch to the 1. Or...

From the *west* side of the station, take the A or C train uptown, and transfer to the 1 train at Columbus Circle (59th St.).

***From the Port Authority Bus Terminal:***

Take the underground pedestrian tunnel to Times Square, from whence you can take a 1, 2, or 3 train uptown; or...

Take the A or C uptown, and transfer to the 1 at Columbus Circle.

The 1 train is a local and shares a tunnel and some stations with the 2 and 3 express trains. If you are heading uptown to GISS on one of the express trains, you *must* transfer to a 1 train at either 72nd or 96th St. After 96th St., the 2 and 3 trains veer off to the east and go far away from GISS.

When catching any of the above-mentioned trains on your way from Midtown *to* GISS, you want to take the *Uptown* train.

If you have never visited New York before and your subway route to GISS includes a transfer at Times Square, allot yourself some extra time. And due to its sheer size, Penn Station may be even worse. Signs pointing the way to the various subway platforms are prominent, but these stations nevertheless can seem like a maze of twisty little passages, all alike. Things have improved at Times Square due to the recent massive renovation, but it can nevertheless still be a bit tricky.

## **Bus**

The M104 and M4 buses of the [MTA bus system](#) pass GISS as they travel up and down Broadway. Just exit at either the 110th St. or 113th St. stop and walk the remaining block or two. South of GISS, the M104 continues down the Upper West Side on Broadway and thence into Midtown. The M4, however, turns east at 110th St. and after passing along the north edge of Central Park, turns south into the Upper East Side.

Also running through the neighborhood is the M11, which has a stop in front of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, one block east of GISS at the corner of 112th St. and Amsterdam Ave. The M11 travels down Columbus Ave. to the west side of Midtown and comes back up on Amsterdam.

The M60 bus connects the GISS neighborhood with LaGuardia airport. The closest stop to GISS is at Broadway and 110th St.

If you have just arrived in Midtown Manhattan and wish to take a bus to GISS, it is possible, but it will be *much* slower than the subway, as buses usually stop every other block and are subject to traffic conditions. The M104 which travels up and down Broadway crosses Midtown on 42nd St. and can be caught outside Grand Central Station. The M4 does a little loop in Midtown and can be caught outside the Seventh Ave. entrance to Penn Station. The M11 can be caught outside the Port Authority, but it travels well downtown before coming back north.

Bus fare is \$2, the same as subway fare. You must pay either using a Metro Card or exact change.

## **Bicycle and Skate**

Delivery people riding bicycles are almost as common in New York as yellow cabs, and the city has been referred to as “the capital of street skating”. When stepping off the curb to cross the street or when entering/exiting a cab, always keep an eye out for a cyclist or inline skater who might be zipping along. Be careful; some might not be traveling in the legal direction.

## **Transportation: Map of GISS and Manhattan**



